

were situated in what is generally styled Asia Minor, and were established in seven celebrated cities of that region. Asia Minor is the peninsular portion of country lying opposite to Greece, formed by the Euxine (or Black) and Ægean seas; the latter better known by moderns as that portion of the Mediterranean sea termed the Archipelago. Sometimes the term Asia Minor comprehended only Ionia, lying across the Archipelago from Greece. But more generally the term was applied as above mentioned, and it was in the country designated by the larger acceptation of the term where the seven churches were situated.

The greater portion of these churches, although planted and inspected by Apostolic men, had fallen far into corruption, and are loudly called to repentance by their Divine Inspector. If they refused to obey the summons, they were threatened with extinction. Those churches, which were the most faithful, have still some existence; and those which were the most demoralized have sunk to the lowest degree of degradation. It is also a remarkable fact that those celebrated cities have either retained some degree of importance; or, have sunk into insignificance, in proportion to the Christian faithfulness of the churches planted within them. A barren waste—a few detached and wretched huts, or a miserable village, occupy the spots where once stood flourishing cities. The sites of the more faithful churches still present some appearance of wealth and prosperity. It would seem that the existence and welfare of cities; and, we may add, of countries